

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment cancels Claim 6; amends Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 9; and adds new Claims 10-12. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Claims 1 and 3-4 are amended to improve grammar and clarity. Support for Claim 5 is found in canceled Claim 6 and in the specification at least at page 9, lines 4-9. Claim 9 is rewritten in independent form. Support for new Claim 10 is found in Claim 7 and in Figs. 1-2. Support for new Claim 11 is found in the specification at least at page 9, line 7. Support for new Claim 12 is found at least in Figs. 1-2. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-5 and 7-12 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the personal interview on November 16, 2005. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication during the interview that the above amendments appear to overcome the prior art of record. Interview Summary dated November 16, 2005.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-4 are allowed and that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Office Action at page 3, lines 15-18. Claim 9 is rewritten independent form.

The present invention is directed to a nitride semiconductor light emitting diode having improved light directivity and thus improved coupling efficiency with optical fibers.

It is an important characteristic of the light emitting diode of independent Claim 5 that, when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the nitride semiconductor substrate, the first electrode is located at the central portion of the nitride semiconductor substrate, and the second electrode is located at the peripheral portion of the nitride semiconductor substrate. Specification at [0016]. The first electrode is surrounded by the second electrode, and preferably the center of the first electrode and the center of the second electrode are coincident. Specification at [0018]. It is preferred that the outer circumference shape of the first electrode has a shape resembling the inner circumference shape or the outer circumference shape of the second electrode. For example, in the case where the outer shape of the first electrode is polygonal, it is preferred that the inner profile or the outer profile of the second electrode is a similar polygonal shape. Specification at [0019].

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0047128 A1 ("Song").

Song discloses a blue light emitting diode with an electrode structure for distributing a current density. Song at title.

However, Song fails to suggest the independent Claim 5 limitation that "when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the substrate, the second electrode surrounds the first electrode; and the outer circumference of the first electrode is similar to at least one of the inner circumference and the outer circumference of the second electrode". The term "similar" can be defined as "having corresponding angles equal and corresponding line segments proportional". The American Heritage College Dictionary, 3d edition, page 1270 (copy attached). With the electrode arrangement of Claim 5, the asymmetrical polarization of light from the diode can be minimized and the directivity of light from the diode improved. See, e.g., specification at [0033] and Figs. 2 and 7 in comparison with [0010] and Fig. 25.

Because Song fails to suggest all the limitations of independent Claim 5, the rejection over Song should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is objected to. To obviate the objection, in Claim 7 "if viewed" is replaced with --when viewed--.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 6 is canceled, so the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attached:

The American Heritage College Dictionary, 3d edition, page 1270

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